

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROTEST ABOUT DEMONSTRATIONS AT AEROFLOT

1. APRIL 13 SOVEMBASSY CONSUL GALISHNIKOV GAVE EUR/SOV
NOTE PROTESTING APRIL 12 DEMONSTRATION AT AEROFLOT NEW YORK.
NOTE SAID "GROUP OF ZIONIST HOOLIGANS" STAGING "NOISY
HOSTILE DEMONSTRATION" TRIED TO ENTER OFFICE; THEY SHOUTED
INSULTING AND THREATENING SLOGANS; BLOCKED THE ENTRANCE AND
PREVENTED NORMAL WORK FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND EXHORTED
PERSONS IN THE AREA NOT TO FLY AEROFLOT. NONE OF THE
"HOOLIGANS" WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE POLICE. THE NOTE
CONCLUDES WITH A PROTEST, A REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATE PUNISH-
MENT FOR PERSONS WHO VIOLATED THE LAW ABOUT THE PROTECTION
OF FOREIGN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES (SIC), AND A DEMAND
THAT MEASURES BE TAKEN TO PROTECT AEROFLOT AND GUARANTEE
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NORMAL CONDITIONS FOR ITS COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS

THE SECURITY OF SOVIET PERSONNEL.

2. IN HIS ORAL COMMENTS GALISHNIKOV CALLED ATTENTION TO THE INTERRUPTION IN BUSINESS ALLEGEDLY CAUSED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS BLOCKING THE ENTRANCE. DEPTOFF ASKED IF DEMONSTRATORS PHYSICALLY BARRED PERSONS FROM ENTERING OR MERELY WALKED BACK AND FORTH ON SIDEWALK. GALISHNIKOV ACKNOWLEDGED LATTER WAS THE CASE, BUT POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS WERE AFRAID TO TRY TO ENTER. ALSO, HE NOTED, THE DEMONSTRATORS ADVISED POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS NOT TO FLY AEROFLOT. DEPTOFF SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE ABOUT THE DEMONSTRATION, BUT ON BASIS GALISHNIKOV'S DESCRIPTION IT SEEMED AS IF DEMONSTRATORS FORMED PICKET LINE AND DID NOT BLOCK ENTRY IN WAY WHICH IS ILLEGAL IN US. DEPTOFF ALSO SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE ADVISING PASSERS-BY NOT TO FLY AEROFLOT WOULD BE ILLEGAL.

3. GALISHNIKOV THEN COMMENTED ON SEVERITY OF GENERAL SITUATION FOR SOVIETS IN NEW YORK, AND CITED IN PARTICULAR CONTINUAL CURSING BY DEMONSTRATORS, INCLUDING MINORS, OUTSIDE SMUN. HE NOTED THAT IN USSR ANY ADULT SHOUTING OBSCENITIES REPEATEDLY ON A PUBLIC STREET WOULD BE ARRESTED AND GIVEN A 15-DAY SENTENCE. DEPTOFF NOTED THAT GENERAL PROBLEM OF PROTECTING SOVIETS FROM ILLEGAL ACTS AND HARASSMENT IN NEW YORK IS PRIORITY PROJECT IN DEPARTMENT RECEIVING ATTENTION AT ALL LEVELS. KISSINGER

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